

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed June 3, 2004, Applicants propose to amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the proposed amendments and the following remarks. In this amendment, claim 1 is proposed to be amended, claims 6 and 7 are proposed to be cancelled and no claims are proposed to be added so that claims 1-5 and 8-19 are pending in the application. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicants have amended claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's rejection.


Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-13 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,683,449 to Marcade and claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over Marcade. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claims 6 and 7. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The amendment raises no new issues and places the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry is proper and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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